



In His
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IN HIS

Peter Doseck

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Living in God's Image

By Peter Doseck

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CHAPTER ONE IN THE BEGINNING

“In the beginning.” What a powerful phrase. With the help of the Bible we can look back at the very beginning, before time began and before all things existed.

“In the beginning God.” We know that God was there in the beginning. In fact, we know that He existed before the beginning. He thought up the beginning, and He created the beginning.

“¹In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. ²And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. ³And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. ⁴And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.” (Genesis 1:1-4)

“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.” (Genesis 1:26)

Here we get a glimpse of what creation was like. God spoke, and the world was. Later God

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created man, and man was made in a very unique way; he was made in the image of God. This is an astounding fact, for if we were made in God's image, we understand that we were made to walk, talk, and act just like Him.

We know that time and sin have not been good to us, so where does this leave us today? The answer is simple. There are men on earth right now who have been re-made in the image of God, and they walk, talk, and act like Him. On the other hand there are those who bear only the image of man, and they are limited in what they can do and become.

Those of us who have been born again by the seed of Christ and have been re-made in the image of God have regained all that was lost in the fall of Adam and Eve. Everything they gave up has been restored to us. While we know that we are not divine, we are a reflection of who God is, just as a child is a reflection of his parents.

We are the offspring of God according to Acts 17:29 which says: "Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device."

We have been born again of incorruptible seed and recreated in the image and likeness of God. As those made in His image, we have the potential to live like He lives. We can move like He moves and think like He thinks because we

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have been enabled to follow and imitate Him as children follow and imitate their parents.

Ephesians 5:1 tells us to be “followers of God, as dear children.” Following God may sound like a difficult task, but it’s not because every commandment comes with a divine provision which makes it possible for us to fulfill it. God gave us the power to fulfill every promise and every commandment in the Bible when He transformed us at the new birth.

1 John 3:1 says, “Behold, what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knows us not, because it knew Him not.”

We are God’s children, and as such we must rediscover who we are in Christ. We must learn how to live in Him and how to walk, talk, and act like Him. We are not called to live in this world as those who depend on their own ability, but we are called to live in God’s image, just as it was in the very beginning.

Reflections of God

Because we have been reborn in His image, God expects us to act like He would in every situation. We have His attributes and characteristics inside of us according to Ephesians 4:22-24. We have everything we need, so we are to reflect the One who made us.

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It's a funny thing about reflections - they have no choice about what they are. If I wake up in the morning with bed hair and wrinkled pajamas, the mirror will reflect just that when I look in. It doesn't matter how much I wish it would show me something else; a reflection is an exact representation of what it sees.

We are God's reflections. Just as the mirror cannot lie about what it sees, so you and I should be genuine reflections of who God has made us to be. We should walk, act, and talk just like the original, and just like the Second Adam, Jesus Christ, who is God in the flesh.

We are empowered to act like God, but still, it will not always be easy. For instance, Luke 6:36 says: "Be therefore merciful, as Your Father also is merciful." This verse shows us that we are expected to give mercy just like God does, but how is this possible?

Everyone knows that God is a merciful God. No one would ever doubt the magnitude of the mercy that compelled Him to sacrifice His only Son for our sins. We know that when mercy is needed, God is always merciful, no exceptions.

When we encounter situations that require mercy, if we are going to act like our Heavenly Father we are going to have to depend on His power to do it. Only by releasing faith can we reflect God's mercy.

Here's another good example. Ephesians 4:32

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says: “And be kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake has forgiven you.”

This time we are commanded to forgive because God, the One in whose image we are made, is a forgiving God, and we are expected to reflect God’s forgiving nature. Again, how is this possible?

We all know we can’t forgive others on our own because in the natural, it cannot happen. The carnal man who does not know God is naturally inclined to harbor unforgiveness. In fact, our natural human nature cannot offer true forgiveness because forgiveness is an act of divinity, not an act of humanity.

Forgiveness is not possible unless we have something greater than our own strength to depend on. So what do we do? As Christians, the Christ-imaged ones, we forgive through the born-again, God-like nature that is given to us through faith in Christ Jesus. We do not depend on ourselves, but we depend on Him.

Even the Apostle Paul admitted he needed help. He said that if he forgave any man he did it in the person of Christ Jesus, not in his own strength (see 2 Corinthians 2:10).

You may say, “I can’t forgive because my situation is different. There’s just too much hurt and too much water under the bridge. No one understands what I’ve been through. I cannot

ever forgive.”

Sometimes we think God does not understand our situation. We think He’s not been through what we’re going through. We think He can forgive because He’s never been hurt like we’ve been hurt. Really?

Jesus was marred more than any man when He was beaten on the way to the cross. He was falsely accused of wrongdoing. He was spat upon and flogged by Roman soldiers. He was publicly humiliated for things He had not done. He bore our shame, literally.

And yet, hanging on the cross in excruciating agony, He did something extraordinary. He forgave those who had hurt Him. He didn’t just forgive you and me for our future sins, but He also forgave the guy who drove the nails into His feet and hands. He forgave the guy who whipped Him unmercifully, and the guys who beat Him until His face was no longer recognizable.

He forgave the High Priest, and the Pharisees and Sadducees who lied against Him. He forgave Peter for denying Him, and all of the disciples for their unbelief.

Remembering that experience should help us understand why Hebrews 4:14-15 tells us that Jesus is easily touched by the feeling of our infirmities. He has been hurt like we have. He has endured pain just like we have. He has already been where we are today.

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So when the Word of God commands us to act like God and to follow Him as dear children, though it won't always be easy, we can rest assured that we have been given everything we need to succeed by a God who understands us and our weaknesses. Though in ourselves we are frail men, in Him we are empowered to live as He does, by faith.

When the Bible says, "Forgive", we must believe that we can forgive by faith. When the Bible says, "Be merciful", we must believe that we can be merciful by faith. And when the Bible says, "Follow God", we can do that by faith, too.

If we will simply believe we have been made in God's image, and begin to act like we see Him act in every situation, we will begin to get the same results that He gets (see Acts 17:29; 2 Corinthians 2:10; 1 Corinthians 11:1).

We are made in His image. We are His reflections. We have His attributes and abilities, and we have God's Word on it.

CHAPTER TWO GOD'S PROBLEM

Having established the fact that we have been created in God's image and have been made to act like Him, even in difficult situations, let's return to Genesis 1:1-2:

Verse 1: "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."

Verse 2: "And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters."

Between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2, something devastating happened in the earth. God, the Divine Creator of all that was, had a problem. Whereas He had created the earth to be productive, now it lay in ruins, but exactly how did it get to this place? Let's look at the Word of God and see what we can discover.

Isaiah 45:18 says: "For thus says the Lord that created the heavens; God Himself that formed the earth and made it; He has established it, He created it not in vain, He formed it to be inhabited: I am the Lord; and there is none else."

God did not create the earth to be without form and void; He created it to be inhabited,

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fruitful, productive, and blessed, but something terrible interrupted God's plan. Isaiah 14:12-19 tells us what happened to cause such a tragedy:

“¹²How are you fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How are you cut down to the ground, which did weaken the nations! ¹³For you have said in your heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north.

“¹⁴I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet you shall be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. They that see you shall narrowly look upon you, and consider you, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms;

“¹⁷That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners; all the kings of the nations, even all of them, lie in glory, every one in his own house.

“¹⁹But you are cast out of your grave like an abominable branch, and as the raiment of those that are slain, thrust through with a sword, that go down to the stones of the pit; as a carcase trodden under feet.”

Lucifer is another name for Satan, the devil, the enemy of our souls. Between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2, Isaiah 14:12-19 took place. The fall

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of Lucifer caused the earth to become without form and void. What was left of the earth in Genesis 1:2 was a far cry from what God had created it to be in Genesis 1:1.

The earth was devastated, lifeless, and void. God's beloved creation, the place He had lovingly made to be inhabited, lay in a shambles. What once had been His delight was now a place where darkness reigned and confusion abounded. Between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2, Satan's rebellious fall had caused God's creation to be reduced to "without form and void". In this state, God had a problem.

We don't often think about God having any problems. We tend to think the only trouble He ever faces is figuring out how to deal with our petty issues. In this instance, though, God faced a big one, a mountain-sized problem with seemingly no hope.

In reality, we have not faced anything that God has not already faced. We've not encountered anything that He has not already confronted and conquered.

Jesus walked the earth and faced the same hardships that you and I face. He walked the same path we have to walk. He became a man, leaving behind His divine attributes for a season so that He could give Himself for our sins, but also so that He could feel what we feel and walk as a man or a woman would walk under the anointing

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of God (see Philippians 2:5-8).

Having walked where we walk, He qualified Himself and became a High Priest and the author and finisher of our faith (see Hebrews 4:14-15). According to Galatians 2:20, the life that we now live is by the faith of the Son of God.

His faith is a faith which was forged out of experience. His faith is tried and true. His faith took Him to the cross, and then it raised Him out of a tomb.

What's incredible is that He passed this same faith on to us. 2 Peter 1:1 tells us that we have been given "like precious faith" through the righteousness of Jesus, and Romans 12:3 tells us that God has given every man "the measure of faith".

There is absolutely nothing wrong with your faith. In fact, according to 1 John 5:4-5, your faith is world-overcoming faith.

As a Christian, you do not have a faith problem, but you may have a lack of knowledge problem. Your faith is waiting to be used and waiting to activate the promises of God in your life, but you may not always know what to do when trouble comes.

If you can go to the scriptures and find out how God dealt with His problem, the biggest problem ever faced, then you will have a divine pattern for how you ought to deal with your trouble.

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To Fix a Problem

What did God do when devastation lay before Him? How did He react, and what did He say? The Bible tells us in Genesis 1:3-4: “God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.”

God saw the problem, but He did not say what the problem was. When God did say something, then God saw things change.

Let’s go over that again. God saw the devastation, but He did not say anything about it. He did not say, “Boy, what a mess! I’ve never seen such a mess!” No, God did not agree with the problem, but He simply waited until He was ready to say what He wanted to see instead.

This was a powerful moment for God. He had a decision to make that held the future of all mankind and all of eternity in its grasp. God saw the problem, but He did not say what He saw. Instead, He said what He desired to see, what He wanted to be. God said, “Let there be light.”

God could have said, “Oh, no! Look what the devil did!” But He didn’t. He didn’t talk about how good things had been and how bad the devil had made them. He didn’t weep and cry about His loss. He didn’t wish for what had been; He simply looked forward to what would be again.

How often do we face issues in our lives and

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run from friend to friend, or from counselor to counselor, saying what we see? We see a problem, and so we talk about the problem. We're acting completely opposite of God when we do this.

What should we do when trouble comes? According to Ephesians 5:1 we should follow and imitate God as our children follow and imitate us. We should express ourselves like God expressed Himself in His time of trouble.

When we see how God reacted to the problem He faced in Genesis 1:2, we see an example that we can follow when we face tough times. The gist of the lesson is this: Don't say what you see, say what you want to see.

In Genesis 1:3, God said what He wanted to see instead of what He did see. He said what He desired and what He wanted to be again. God was not moved by a setback, especially one caused by a defeated foe.

The situation before Him did not change what God desired for the earth. He still desired for the earth to be a place that would be inhabited, so He set about changing what He saw by saying what He desired.

God's reaction to His problem says, "I am teaching you by example. I faced devastation, a manifestation of the devil's plan against My creation. I faced the most catastrophic place of defeat anyone could ever face, but in the midst of My trouble I showed you how to overcome. I

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showed you what to do and what to say. I saw my problem, but I didn't say what I saw, I said what I wanted to see, what I desired to be. I want you to do the same because you are created in My image and likeness. I have empowered you to act like Me.”

What if God had acted like we act and whined about the problem? What if He had said, “Look at what the devil has done. It's dark out there. It's really, really dark! I don't think there will ever be light again, it's so dark.”? Would there have ever been light again? No way!

Thank God He said the right thing, or you and I would never have had the chance to be born, and the earth would still be lying in a void and devastated mess. Thank God He said, “Let there be...”

In Hebrews 11:3 we read: “Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.”

Creation was fueled by the power of faith-filled words. God saw destruction, but His words of faith overpowered that destruction and brought life back to planet earth. God spoke, and creation came into line with His words.

In Mark 11:22-23, Jesus said, “Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be removed, and be cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart,

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but shall believe that those things which he says shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he says.”

When Jesus said, “Have faith in God”, other translations render the phrase as, “Have the faith of God”, or “Use your faith as God and I have.” We could say, “As one created in God’s image, imitate Him and use your faith as He did.”

By God’s example and by Jesus’ words, we understand that we are not to say what we see, but we are to say what we desire. This is how we live in His image. This is how faith is activated and how God’s Word works. And it is how you are to react and live every day of your life.

CHAPTER THREE
SAYING WHAT GOD SAYS

“Then the word of the Lord came unto me saying, Before I formed you in the belly I knew you; and before you came forth out of the womb I sanctified you, and I ordained you a prophet unto the nations. Then said I, Ah, Lord God! Behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child. But the Lord said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for you shall go to all that I shall send you, and whatsoever I command you, you shall speak.” (Jeremiah 1:4-7)

Was Jeremiah very young when God spoke this word to him? Yes, he was. So why did God forbid him to say, “I am a child”? Because God was teaching Jeremiah how to activate faith and how to live as one created in His image.

God taught Jeremiah the same principle that He used to deal with the devil’s destruction in Genesis 1:2. God instructed Jeremiah and gave him the secret to fulfilling his call: “Say what I say about you, not what you see.”

God continued His teaching in Jeremiah 1:8-9, “Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord. Then the Lord put forth His hand, and touched my mouth. And the

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Lord said unto me, Behold I have put My words in your mouth.”

God put something very specific in Jeremiah’s mouth. He put the words that He wanted Jeremiah to speak there. He gave him something to say, and we see the essence of what that was back in verse seven, when God said: “whatsoever I command you, you shall speak.”

God told Jeremiah to say what He said. We know that whenever God speaks, He speaks His Word, so we understand that God put His Word in Jeremiah’s mouth.

God wants to do the same for you and me. When you say what God says, you allow God to put His Word in your mouth, and your faith activates the Word spoken. A mouth that is filled with the Word is filled with faith and has no room for anything else, especially doubt and unbelief.

A Name Change

The story in Jeremiah wasn’t the first time God ever told someone what to say. God visited Abraham, who was still called Abram, in Genesis 17:1-8:

“¹And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before Me, and be perfect.

“²And I will make My covenant between Me

and you, and will multiply you exceedingly. ³And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying, ⁴As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations.

“⁵Neither shall your name any more be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made you. ⁶And I will make you exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come out of you.

“⁷And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your seed after you in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto you, and to your seed after you.

“⁸And I will give unto you, and to your seed after you, the land wherein you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.”

Here we see God teaching Abraham about the power of words. God told him, “Don’t say what you see. Say what I have made you to be.”

When God changed Abram’s name to Abraham, He changed the way Abraham spoke about himself. Abram meant “high father”, a term of respect, but Abraham meant “father of a multitude”.

Every time Abraham said his new name he reminded himself of what God had promised. When he said his name, he was actually agreeing with the promise and saying, “I am the father of a multitude.” Abraham believed God and spoke

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his name to reflect what God had said about him. One year later Isaac came, and Abraham's heritage was changed forever.

God turned Abraham's vision toward the outcome. He pulled Abraham aside and said, "Don't look at what you've experienced before, though you've failed hundreds of times. Don't look at your impossible situation or your lack, but look at what I have promised. I am changing your name to Abraham so that you will say what I have promised instead of what you see."

Suppose Abram had said, "Hey, God! I'm 99 and my wife is 90. We're old, God! The baby season is over for us. It's not going to happen."

If Abram would have said that, Isaac never would have been born, and the promise would have gone unfulfilled. Thank God Abram responded and began to call himself Abraham. Thank God Abraham believed what God told him so that Isaac, the promised child, could be born.

Thank God that Jeremiah believed God and began to call himself a prophet unto the people. And thank God when you and I believe God's Word and activate faith so that we can watch the promises of God unfold in our lives, too.

What Do We Say?

We have learned that we can operate in God's

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image, say what we desire instead of what we see, and then we will see what we say, just like God did in the beginning. But what exactly do we say?

This is very simple. There is only one thing we can say that will carry the power of God as if God spoke it Himself, and that is God's Word. The Word of God is the most powerful thing on earth.

God's Word is also His will. It is His promise to you, and it is a covenant that cannot be broken. When you speak God's Word, you say what God says and what He has declared for your situation. You speak His will for your life, despite what you see, because whatever you see in the Word is God's will for you.

The written Word is also God's voice, as if He is speaking to you personally. When God speaks a word to you through the written Word, it is His proclamation for your life. He declares something, you believe and declare it, and then it is accomplished for you. When activated by faith, the Word will overcome everything that is opposing it.

The Word of God is His unbreakable promise, an assured word about what He will do in your life. God's promises are not made to be broken, but they are made to be kept and fulfilled for you.

When God speaks a word to you, He releases His voice as a promise and His sworn oath. His

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promise is declared and established as a covenant, just like it was in Abraham's case. A covenant is a contract of sorts where God says, "I will do this at the cost of My own account."

It's like this. If you wanted to bless your grandson with a bike on his birthday, you could simply call the local bike shop and tell them to deliver a shiny red bike to your grandson's home. You would end the conversation by saying, "Put it on my account. I will pay for it."

If you are known by this store, your word will be your contract with them. When you say, "I will pay", they will believe you and will deliver the bike, no questions asked. This great gift would not cost your grandson one dime.

That's what God does when we believe and speak a promise from His Word. God honors His promise as if an oath has been sworn, and He delivers that promise without it costing you a thing. God already paid the price for you, so now you can benefit freely.

A Covenant with God

Psalm 105:8-9 tells us a little more about the promise God made to Abraham. It says: "He has remembered His covenant forever, the word which He commanded to a thousand generations. Which covenant He made with Abraham, and His oath unto Isaac."

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Notice God gave Abraham a promise, but it was also a covenant for future generations. God swore an oath that He would fulfill the promise at His own expense. In so doing He established a covenant with Abraham, and with Isaac before he was ever born.

A covenant is an agreement in which two become one. The weaknesses of the weaker are swallowed up by the strengths of the greater.

The word covenant means “to cut”, so every time God entered into a covenant of any kind, it was ratified by the shedding of blood. When blood was shed an exchange was made, and God said, “Everything I have is yours, and everything you have is mine. My strengths will swallow up your weaknesses, and your life will be infused with My power.”

The idea of living by a covenant agreement is lost on many in today’s society. One place you may identify with it is in the idea of a blood brother pact.

As kids many of us, especially boys, entered into a blood brother pact. Maybe you and your best buddy had a secret club. You wanted that club to mean something, so the two of you pricked your fingers with a pin and rubbed your blood together to symbolize that you were blood brothers for life.

What you had became his, and what he had became yours. You may have sworn an oath that you would stick up for each other, fight for one

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another, and keep the secrets of the club forever because the exchange of blood was supposed to be a lifetime commitment.

Your pact probably did not benefit you much, and it definitely did not last for a lifetime as you intended, but its idea was based on the covenants God made in the Bible. Blood was shed to ratify an agreement, and two became one in thought, action, provision, and strength.

Today, when a man enters into a covenant with God, he depends solely on the shed blood of Jesus to it. It is no longer necessary for us to shed our own blood, or the blood of bulls and goats to ratify our covenant with God. Jesus shed His blood for us, once for all (see Hebrews 9:12).

When Jesus said on the cross, “It is finished”, He forever settled God’s covenant with man, and all the promises of God became yea and amen for every believer (see 2 Corinthians 1:20). All God had become ours, and now all we have we freely give Him because we are in a covenant relationship with Him.

Our responsibility is to agree to the terms of the covenant. Once we do, we can access all of the benefits freely, at God’s expense. We are no longer living on our own, but we are backed by God Himself in everything we do.

Another good example of a covenant today is marriage. In fact, marriage is supposed to be a perfect example of a lifetime covenant, but

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unfortunately in most states there are more ways out of a marriage than there are into one. Still, in its intended form marriage is a lifetime covenant joining two as one.

We exchange vows and rings, symbolizing that we are no longer two, but one. The strengths and weaknesses of each are now shared by both, and all the benefits of the marriage covenant become ours to keep.

The Bible tells us that a woman is the weaker vessel (see 1 Peter 3:7), but when she is joined with her husband in marriage she is no longer known by her weaknesses; she is now known by her husband's strengths. On the flip side, the Bible also says it is not good for man to be alone (see Genesis 2:18). When a woman enters a man's life in marriage, she makes up for many things that he is lacking.

Marriage is a mutual exchange where a man and a woman give and receive to benefit one another. All that he has becomes hers, and all that she has becomes his. They no longer have "yours" and "mine", but they depend only on what is "ours". The weaknesses of each are covered by the strengths of the other.

You could also look at the benefits of living in covenant with God this way. Remember the school bully? He was always looking for the weakest little kid to pick on and steal his lunch money. His reign of terror lasted only as long as

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he kept everyone convinced that he was stronger than they were.

But remember when the weakling showed up on the playground with his big high school brother? Suddenly, he was no longer known as the weak little kid anymore, but now he was known for his big brother's biceps. Amazingly, the bully lost his appetite for picking on the little guy and moved on to someone else.

When you identify with the covenant of God in His Word, you are the little boy with a big brother following you around. Every time you speak the Word, the devil looks at you and sees Jesus standing behind you, pointing His finger at him as if to say, "Oh, no you don't!"

Your weaknesses are swallowed up by the strengths of Jesus. You are now one with Him. All that He has is yours, and all that you have you freely give Him because of the covenant ratified by His blood. The "bully", the devil, has lost his power over you.

Entering Into Covenant

When God says something in His Word, He says it with one thing in mind: He wants you to receive something from Him. God is not a man that He should lie (see Numbers 23:19), so when He says something, He means it, and He expects you to benefit from what He says by imitating

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Him and speaking His Word until you see it.

Hebrews 6:13-14 says: “For when God made promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no greater, He swore by Himself, saying, Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you.”

Notice the beginning of verse 14. The word “saying” indicates that God said something, and what He said became a promise, an oath, and a covenant that He swore He would fulfill.

Every time God speaks something to you and you receive it by speaking the promise into your situation, that promise becomes one with you, according to the terms of blood covenant. All of the benefits of the promise become yours, and all of your weaknesses are swallowed up by the strength of the Word.

Jesus showed us how to enter into covenant and become one with the written Word of God in Luke 4:16-21. In this account Jesus entered His hometown synagogue and was given a turn to read scripture. Jesus stood up, opened the scroll and found a specific place. He read the scripture, closed the scroll, and then He said an amazing thing in verse 21: “This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.”

Why did Jesus do this? He did it because it was necessary for Him to become one with this passage. He was the fulfillment of all scripture, but He needed to make it clear to the people that

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this passage was specifically talking about Him personally.

When Jesus spoke the Word, He became one with it. You can do the same with every promise in God's Word.

As a child of God and one made in His image, you can act like God, talk like Him, and expect to get the same results that He gets. You are not deity, but you are born of deity. You have been born of incorruptible seed, the Word of God, so you can say of any promise you find in the Bible, "This day is this scripture fulfilled for me."

When you speak the Word and activate it this way, you become one with it in covenant relationship. Within this covenant, God will step into your situation and back you up 100%.

Being one with the Word, you are now strengthened with something you did not have before, and you are empowered by something with which you were not born. You are a co-laborer with God, partners for life because you said, "This day is this scripture fulfilled for me."

CHAPTER FOUR
HIS POWERFUL WORD

Hebrews 6:16-17 says: “For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife. Wherein God, willing more abundantly to show unto the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath.”

When men swear they have to swear by God because they cannot be relied upon by themselves. God, however, can only swear by Himself because there is no one greater than He is. When God swears, He makes an oath, which means He says something that is as sure and certain as He is. When God says something this sure strife ends, and that which God says is settled in Heaven forever.

Strife or striving is the result of doubt and unbelief. If I believe, I will no longer strive, but if I doubt, I will work hard to accomplish what I need on my own. Striving gives birth to a battlefield between reason and faith – mind against spirit, fact against truth, and evidence against the promise.

When God swears to do something for us it should put an end to our own labor, and it should

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eliminate our striving forever.

Why is it that so many people, even those who are saved today, are wary of trusting God this way and instead say things like, “I’ll believe it when I see it”? Words like this are born of the senses and not of faith.

Suppose Noah had said something like this? Suppose he had not bothered to cut his first board until the first raindrop had fallen? It would have been too late. He and his family would have drowned with all the rest, and God’s plan to rebuild the earth would have been destroyed; all because one man refused to trust God’s Word.

You may think it’s not as important for you to trust God’s Word as it was for Noah, but your life and the lives of your family are hanging in the balance just as much as his were.

Don’t believe me? Look at what Proverbs 18:21 says: “Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.”

Then there’s 1 Peter 3:10 which says: “For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile.” (And of course there’s James 3:1-18 and Luke 6:47-49.)

You need to trust God and His Word. You need to believe that God will do what He said He will do, at His own cost, for your benefit. Because you believe, you need to say what you

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believe instead of what you see. Then and only then will life spring forth in your situation.

Stop striving to do things on your own and refuse to be dominated by your senses. It's time for you to accept God's Word as a child accepts the word of his parents. Believe what God says, then speak God's Word and say with great assurance, "This day is this scripture fulfilled in my life!"

Believe in Hope

Let's look at Abraham one more time. Romans 4:16-21 says:

“¹⁶Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,

“¹⁷(As it is written, I have made you a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickens the dead, and calls those things which be not as though they were.

“¹⁸Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations; according to that which was spoken, So shall your seed be.

“¹⁹And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about a hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb:

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“²⁰He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; ²¹and being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.”

Once God spoke His promise to Abraham and made the covenant with him, Abraham ceased to relate to and depend on his senses. Abraham believed what God said, when He said it. He believed it would be so, even though he considered his body now dead.

Abraham embraced God’s covenant above what he saw with his eyes and what he felt in his body. Against the lack of worldly hope, Abraham believed in God’s hope, the hope that the Word gives.

In our lives today, some of us will face situations that will make us think there is no light at the end of the tunnel. Despair and discouragement will be waiting for us to fail, but faith in God’s Word will be waiting to give us a testimony just like Abraham’s, a testimony of resurrection and joy.

Victoria

I want you to read the story of two faithful members of my congregation named Rick and Jodie who lived through a very tough situation several years ago. Their story is so compelling, I

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want you to read it in their own words.

Jodie writes, “We named our fourth baby Victoria because she truly is a testimony to the victory we have in Jesus when we hold onto His Word.

“When I was pregnant with Victoria, around the three month mark, I began to miscarry. I was cramping heavily and bleeding. No matter what I did, I could not slow it down.

“My husband Rick loaded me in the car, and we set off for the emergency room. As we went, I frantically searched through my Bible saying, ‘We have to find a scripture to stand on!’

“As I was rushing through the pages of my Bible, Rick gently placed his hand on my knee and reminded me of the verses our family had been reciting at the dinner table every night. We used them because they spoke of God’s blessing on our food, never realizing we would one day have to depend upon them for our baby’s very life.

“The scripture passage was Exodus 23:25-26, and it goes like this: ‘And you shall serve the Lord your God, and He shall bless your bread, and your water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of you. There shall nothing cast their young (miscarry), nor be barren, in your land: the number of your days I will fulfil.’

“When Rick reminded me of the passage, immediately a peace came on me, and I knew we

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had the victory. I grabbed onto those verses and held them tight, speaking them, praying them, and claiming them for my baby.

“When we arrived at the emergency room, at first it did not seem like anything had changed. I still miscarried. Or so the doctors told me.

“Three different doctors gave me the same bad report. I had miscarried, and our baby was gone. The emergency room doctor was the first to break the news. Then my own OB/GYN confirmed the diagnosis. Still, I held onto hope and went to another OB/GYN for a second opinion. Same news. Same bad news.

“The third doctor did blood tests two weeks apart and confirmed that my hormone levels had fallen so low, not only was the pregnancy over, but I did not even need a D & C.

“My husband and I were confused. We knew that God’s Word works. We knew we had claimed it in faith. How could it have failed to work?

“We prayed, ‘God, show us what we did wrong.’ And then we let it go, knowing that God was still faithful, His Word did work, and some things we just don’t understand.

“To our delight, my monthly cycle did not return. When I went to the doctor to be checked, he performed an ultrasound. As we all looked up at the monitor, there she was. Victoria was alive and well!

“My doctor claimed that I had miscarried and

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then conceived again immediately, but Rick and I knew better.

“Sure enough, the confirmation came when Victoria was born. She was supposed to be premature, only a 28 week baby according to my doctor’s calculations. A whole team of specialists surrounded me in the birthing room waiting for Victoria to come out so they could whisk our tiny 28 week infant away and perform life-saving procedures on her. Or so they thought.

“Much to our delight and my doctor’s surprise, when Victoria popped out there was no hurried frenzy, but instead there was a peaceful quiet. One by one each specialist said, ‘She’s not a 28 week baby. She’s at least a 32 week baby.’

“Victoria was so perfect and healthy, I was allowed to hold her right away. The doctors thought she would have to stay in the hospital for six weeks, but she was so strong and vibrant, she was ready to go home in only two and a half weeks.

“Every test the doctors performed proved that Victoria was indeed the same baby that they had told us was gone. There was no way she was any younger than 32 weeks when she was born, which meant God had restored our little girl in the womb.

“God’s precious Word had worked, even when we could not see it working, and it brought us the victory, our sweet baby girl. What was

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impossible with men, was very possible with God!”

What a testimony! This story is a perfect example of how God’s Word works, even when you can’t see it. Like Rick and Jodie, you are not without hope. You can go to the Word of God, just as they did, and just as Abraham did, and see the promise come to pass in your life.

If we will put our finger on the promise as Rick and Jodie did, saying that this day it is as God said it will be in our lives, we too can watch light arise out of darkness. We can see our lifeless situations resurrected by the release of our words of faith.

What God did for Rick and Jodie, and what He did for Abraham and Sarah, He desires to do for every man and woman alive today. The things in our lives that appear dead and without hope will be transformed if we will simply put faith in God’s Word. His power will supersede our humanistic power and invade our situation, causing dead things to come alive again.

Against hope, believe in hope. Against the most powerful physical evidence, believe the Word of God more than what you see, and then watch God do the impossible!

The Word of His Power

Hebrews 1:3 says: “Who being the brightness

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of His glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.”

God’s Word holds everything together, but it is only released into your life through faith that is activated by your spoken words.

Romans 4:17 says: “(As it is written, I have made you a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickens the dead, and calls those things which be not as though they were.”

God calls things that do not exist as if they do. He speaks about them as if they are before they come into manifestation. This is what He taught Abraham to do when he changed his name, and this is what He expects you to do as a child made in His image.

In Hebrews 4:2 we read: “For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.”

This verse confirms that there is power in the covenant of God’s Word, but we will never see it until we mix faith with the promises and speak them. Only by speaking words of faith will we see the promises manifested in our lives.

Sadly, even though the power of God is always waiting to spring forth and produce times

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of blessing and increase in our lives, we often miss them because we fail to mix faith with the promises. Most often the reason is because we have given far too much authority to our senses and reason based on our present momentary circumstances.

Just because you do not immediately see the evidence of what God has said in His Word, it does not mean that God is going to break His covenant with you (see 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 and Hebrews 10:35-39).

You need to hold fast to His Word, which is His covenant, because He is faithful to a thousand generations. God will do what He said He will do. He made the covenant, and now it's up to you to accept the promise and become one with it through your spoken words of faith.

You must accept the Word of God as if God spoke it to you personally. You must treat it the same way Abraham did when God spoke to him. Abraham believed; therefore, you must believe. Abraham spoke those things that be not as thought they were because he saw God speak that way; therefore, you should, too.

Look to Jesus, our greatest example. When He was in the desert being tempted by the devil after a 40 day fast, He did not depend on his own words to prevail, although He was God in the flesh. What Jesus depended on was the written Word of God.

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According to the story recorded in Luke 4:1-13, the devil approached Jesus three times in His weakened state and tempted Him. Each time Jesus responded with “It is written...”

That’s all you need to do to mix faith with the promises and speak God’s Word into your situation, just simply say, “It is written...” What is written, is written for you just as much as it was for Jesus.

When God says, “By whose stripes you were healed”, it’s for you. You can say with confidence, “It is written, by His stripes I am healed” (see 1 Peter 2:24). Just say what the Word says instead of what your circumstance says. When you do you will be imitating Jesus, and you will get the same results He got: the devil will leave you.

As He Is

Your whole resistance to this teaching may boil down to, “Well, that’s good for Jesus, but I’m not Jesus.”

1 John 4:17 says: “Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as He is, so are we in this world.”

We are not God, but we are created in His image and after His likeness. Hebrews 9:14 says, “How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself

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without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”

Once you are washed in the blood of Jesus, God views you as a precious child born of His own seed, just like Jesus was. Now as God's child, you are commanded to be an imitator of God and to follow Him as a dear child would follow his parents.

God loves you, and He desires to treat you as a son or a daughter, not as someone who fears to come near Him. He wants you to freely access all that He has waiting for you in His Word.

2 Corinthians 1:20 says: “For all the promises of God in Him are yea, and in Him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.” You are in Him, and you may call upon the promises any time you like.

The trouble is too many of us view ourselves as less than children of God, so we often say things like, “Oh, if God would just do this or that for me.”

He already has done it for you in the form of a promise. What you have to do is go to the Bible and say, “I am God's child, born of incorruptible seed. This day is this scripture fulfilled in my life.” If you say it in faith, the power of God will go into motion.

Let's go a step further in this thought process. Ephesians 2:8 says, “For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.”

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Grace is a covenant blessing which brings about a transfer. This transfer takes you out of the kingdom of darkness, and it places you in the kingdom of His dear Son (see Colossians 1:13).

Grace gives you God's life for your death, and His blessing for your cursing (see Galatians 3:13). Grace also activates forgiveness, a freeing from your past, from your sin, and its penalty over you.

When you asked God to forgive your sins, the Holy Ghost came upon you and transformed you into a new creature (see 2 Corinthians 5:17). This did not happen by your power, but by God's power through grace.

Now, what did the rest of the verse say? "By grace through faith..." Grace was there, and God's power was present all along, but they could not operate until faith put them into motion. No sinner is saved until faith is released. Salvation is always available, but it requires faith to receive it.

Romans 10:9-10 shows us how faith works when it says: "That if you shall confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and shall believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved. For with the heart man believes unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

The word "confession" means "to consent, covenant, acknowledge, or give thanks." So,

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we know that faith activated grace when you spoke (confessed, consented, acknowledged, covenanted, and gave thanks). It's that simple.

If God will not save a man until faith activates grace using spoken words, surely He will not fulfill any other promise until faith activates grace in the same way.

Too many of us hold the promises of God at arm's length and live a defeated life (see 2 Peter 1:3-4; 2 Corinthians 6:1), but when we accept what God has said about our circumstances, based on His written Word, and when we release faith by saying, "This day is this scripture fulfilled in my life", then the power of God will be released and will do for us what we cannot do for ourselves. This is grace in motion.

Every promise of God is for you, but it will never happen in your life until and unless you put faith in motion. This is the Kingdom law of faith. You cannot override it, and you cannot have success any other way.

You do not have to live one more season in death, hopelessness, or defeat if you will accept what God has said and say it with Him, despite what you see.

When Abraham looked at his dead body he probably thought, "It ain't happening in the natural." But then He said, "God, it's not by what I see, but by what You say, 'So shall your seed be.' I'm nearly 100 years old, and my seed is lifeless,

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but because of what You said, I believe I receive the promise, and I declare I am no more Abram, but Abraham, the father of many nations.”

When Abraham said that, there leaped forth out of the covenant of God the power of God, and it infused a strength into Abraham that allowed Him to walk as a living man, giving resurrection life to his seed.

This transformation was so strong, after Sarah died Abraham continued in that strength, married again and had six more sons (see Genesis 25:1-2). In other words, when the power of God’s Word touches you, it’s not just for a moment, but for your future outcome.

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CHAPTER FIVE THE SEED FACTOR

If you still wonder if you have the right to do what Jesus did and what Abraham did, I want you to look at the following verses.

“Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, you are gods?” (See John 10:34 & Psalm 82:6.)

This may be hard for you to swallow, but this is how God views every man or woman born of His Spirit. As I said before, we are not divinity, but we are made like God. We are gods, little “g”, which means that we have God’s power residing in us to overcome every problem. We are nothing in ourselves, but we are not in ourselves anymore; we are in Him.

In Him, we are joint heirs with Jesus (see Romans 8:17). In Him, we are more than conquerors (see Romans 8:37). In Him, we are above only and not beneath (see Deuteronomy 28:13).

When we receive the Word of God, and we believe in the midst of our trouble, God activates a promise that makes us something man cannot see. We become gods over our situation.

We see this in many Bible accounts, such as

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when Moses was god over Pharaoh in Exodus 7:1. He became such because he spoke what God told him to; nothing more, nothing less. In the same way when we speak the Word of God we are gods over the devil, problems, and situations.

In John 10:34, Jesus reminds us that God has already called us His offspring and those made in His image. At creation Adam was made in God's image, the offspring of Elohim, but the divine connection was lost after the fall. Jesus got that connection back for us on the cross. Now, everything intended for us at the beginning and everything Jesus purchased on the cross is at our disposal through faith in God's Word.

Whenever God makes a covenant with a man, that man goes from being estranged from Him to being one of His children. Therefore, when that man, now connected to God and born of His seed, takes His covenant and puts it in his mouth, he becomes a god, as it were, over death, and he begins to experience life. He sets God's order into place over the chaos and disorder caused by sin.

This is what happens every time God gives us a word. We are not God, but we are His offspring. When God puts His Word in our mouths, our situations see us as if we are their gods.

Remember our illustration about the bully on the playground? When we speak God's Word, our situations and circumstances no longer see

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us, but they see God standing behind us wagging the finger and saying, “No more!” (See Matthew 12:28.)

That’s why Jesus said, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.” (Matthew 4:4)

That’s also why when the devil came after Jesus, He responded with “It is written...” It was as if God Himself was speaking to the devil in the wilderness. It was no longer a weakened Jesus, but the Creator Himself booming forth, “Get behind me Satan!”

There is great power in being the offspring of God, born of His seed, and filled with His Word. You become the ruler over death, and you become a master in life. Your words, based on God’s words, are very powerful.

Did not God say, “Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof”? (Proverbs 18:21)

We are not God, but we are made in His image. If the Word works when it comes out of His mouth, it will work when it comes out of our mouths. There is nothing impossible to you or to those who believe because we are His offspring (see Matthew 17:20).

Words are Seeds

“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for

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whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap.”
(Galatians 6:7)

According to Jesus in the eighth chapter of Luke, words are like seeds. You cannot plant a seed and expect anything other than what is planted. In other words, if you plant corn, you're going to reap corn. If you plant wheat, you better get the barns ready for wheat. You can't plant beans and then get upset because your reapers fail to bring in bananas.

Words are seeds, and you plant your words by speaking them.

So if you plant your words by saying what you see, and what you see is what the devil is doing, guess what you're going to reap - more of what the devil is doing! It's time to stop that kind of planting and put in a new crop of God's Word.

If you plant what you see, you'll only get more of what you see, but if you plant what God has said in His Word (that promise made alive to you by revelation of the Holy Ghost) you'll eventually change your situation and get what God has promised (see 1 Corinthians 2:9-13).

Here's how it works: A farmer, a man we'll call Farmer Brown, drops a seed of corn into the ground and covers it up. He drops seed after seed after seed into the ground, tens of thousands of them in his 500 acre farm. We call this planting. It is no less an act of faith than when God said, "Let there be light".

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From planting day on, Farmer Brown begins to prepare for his harvest. Even though he cannot see any evidence yet, he begins laboring as if it already exists.

He makes room in the silo for the coming wagons of corn. He works on his corn picker, making sure it is ready for the task at hand. He hires extra help, and his wife plans for the harvest money in the family budget.

Why? Because Farmer Brown knows that the seed planted contains the reality of what he does not see. The harvest is in the seed because the seed contains the power of a great harvest.

Planting seed changes a weed-infested wilderness into a lush field awaiting the hand of the reaper. This seed makes that which was out of order into something productive, and it brings a desired result.

In the same way, the Word of God contains the reality of every promise God has ever made for you. Every seed of God's Word is waiting to turn your wilderness into a lush field, and to make that which is out of order in your life into something useful.

If you will plant the Word by believing it and saying it, the harvest of God's promise will be yours. The promise will be yours at the moment you plant it, but it may take time before you see it (see Mark 4:26-29).

Just like Farmer Brown, you must plant first,

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then harvest later. You plant by saying, time passes, and then you see the harvest of what already existed since the time you planted. Just as corn is no less corn in seed form, so God's promises are no less real when they begin in seed form.

Now here's an important point to consider. Would a farmer randomly toss out a mixed bag of seeds without any planning or without any preparation of the soil, and then expect a bountiful harvest? Not if he's a good farmer.

A good farmer will take time to select the best seed for his climate. He'll study and find out how to prepare his soil so that the seed has the best chance to grow into a strong, sturdy crop that will yield as much grain as possible.

Why, then, do Christians randomly plant the seeds of God's promises without any thought or preparation? That's not good farming.

We should take time to study God's Word and allow the Holy Spirit to tell us which scriptures will best fit our situation, and which scriptures will bear much fruit for us where we are right now.

Then we need to prepare the soil of our lives by making sure we plow out the unforgiveness and offence that may be hiding under the surface. It doesn't do any good to plant the Word of God in a patch of weeds.

Jesus made this plain in Mark 4:13-20. The

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same Word was planted in this parable, but the results were different depending on the condition of the soil.

I encourage you to be a smart farmer. Plant the right seed in prepared soil, and then you can expect the hundred-fold harvest.

The Miracle of a Seed Planted

The hundred-fold harvest may come for you in many different ways, like in the manifestation of healing when your body is plagued by disease, or in a life-changing miracle in the midst of a terrible storm.

My daughter Nicole and her husband Randy lived through a potentially devastating storm a few years ago when Nicole was pregnant with their first child, my first grandchild. Here's their story in Randy's own words:

“It wasn't until several years after we were married that we began to have the desire to have children. In our eighth year, Nicole found out she was pregnant, and we were very excited.

“At Nicole's first ultrasound visit, we were eager to find out whether we were going to have a boy or a girl. As with every first time parent, this experience was very new and the anticipation was high that day. Nicole's parents came to the appointment with us so that we could all find out the big news together.

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“As the nurse did the procedure, it seemed like it took forever before she said anything, and she seemed to be going over the same area again and again. We asked her why she was going over same place, and she casually said she was just trying to find something.

“The nurse seemed quiet, and when she did speak she was very vague, which worried Nicole and her mom. I wasn’t too concerned at this point, but then she did a print out and told us she needed to bring the doctor in. When the nurse left without telling us anything, we all began to wonder if something was wrong.

“The doctor came in the room and said, ‘I’m afraid there is something wrong with the fetus.’ He showed us the diagram and said, ‘You see this area? This is supposed to be a picture of the intestinal tract, which should be dark, but instead it is light which indicates bone mass. This means the fetus is not developing right, and it is usually an indication of Down Syndrome. That’s what it looks like at this time, so before we go any further, I want to give you some options.’

“The doctor told us that we could terminate the pregnancy, which really caught us off guard. He also said we could take a blood test to determine if we were carriers of Cystic Fibrosis, another disease that could show the same type of indicators. If we eliminated that, he said, we would narrow it down to the first diagnosis. Our

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third option was to have an amniocentesis done, which came with a chance of accidentally ending the pregnancy altogether.

“I could see Nicole was upset and a little scared, as I was, so I told the doctor we needed some time to consider what he had just said, and we ended the appointment as soon as possible.

“Though I was shocked and upset, trying to digest what we had just been told, I immediately knew one thing - I would not accept the diagnosis as the final outcome for our baby.

“We went home without the celebration we had expected to be having, and I did my best to console Nicole, assuring her that everything would be okay. When we arrived home, we sat down to talk.

“We weighed all the options the doctor had given us and decided the least invasive option would be to have our blood drawn and tested so that at least one thing could be eliminated. We determined that no matter what the outcome of that blood test was, we would believe what God had said in His Word.

“Nicole’s dad and I also agreed to fast for three days before we did anything else. He laid hands on Nicole and prayed for her and the baby, and from that point on, we determined that we would not speak about the situation in a negative way ever again, and we would not let the doctors move us away from what we believed.

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“I went to the Bible right away and began to look up all of the healing scriptures, scriptures on wholeness, and things that would pertain to our baby. I wrote 10 to 15 of them down on a piece of paper and made copies of them.

“I gave them to Nicole and her parents and I told them that this would be the only thing we would speak over our baby from then on. I made it clear that I did not want anything else spoken over our child.

“Our foundation verse was Jeremiah 29:11 which says, ‘For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.’

“Our first visit to the ultrasound doctor took place in the 24th week. Our next visit was scheduled for the 28th week. In between, the enemy began to work on us. Everywhere my wife went, she saw children with Down Syndrome, and every time she saw such a child, the devil would whisper in her ear, ‘He’s just like your child.’

“It was a difficult time, but we stuck to our guns and only spoke the Word when we talked about our baby. We told no one about what we faced, not even my parents, because we did not want anything to slip out that would allow others to speak negatively about our situation.

“In the 28th week we returned to the doctor, and they said things still looked the same. They

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asked us to schedule an internal ultrasound, but we refused and told the doctor that we were going to have our baby no matter what they told us, so we saw no point in looking any closer.

“We went home, and we continued to speak the Word over our baby, unmoved by what the doctor wanted us to believe. We chose to believe that the Word would come to pass in our baby’s life, and we refused to back down.

“During this time Jesse and Cathy Duplantis, who knew nothing of our battle, gave us a beautiful book of promises with scripture verses for the mother and for the baby. We added those scriptures to our list, and we spoke them over our baby every day.

“We had been told we were having a little girl, and we decided to name her Alexis. Every morning and every evening I would read the promises out loud, and I would lay my hand on Nicole’s abdomen and say, ‘Alexis, you’re whole. You are 100% whole. Jesus says that according to the Bible you are made whole, 100% whole.’

“Time passed with little encouragement from the doctors. Finally, after weeks and weeks of standing our ground, delivery day arrived. Since this was our first delivery experience, we were both more concerned about the whole process of giving birth than we were about what would happen afterwards.

“We had a mid-wife, and we had given her

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and our pediatrician the whole account of what the ultrasound doctor had predicted, even though we did not believe it a bit. It did not shake our faith to tell them, and we felt it was the wise thing to do in our situation.

“I admit I was a little nervous about my role in the delivery room, but mostly I was anxious to meet our little girl - our healthy little girl. The labor experience was intense, but when Alexis was born we rejoiced to see that she was 100% whole, just as we had expected. There was nothing wrong with her!

“We asked the doctor at our dismissal one last time if he saw any sign of Down Syndrome, just to be sure. He said he saw nothing at all.

“As of this writing, Alexis is 11 years old, and she is a beautiful, healthy young lady, all because God’s Word worked when we relied on it instead of on what the doctors and tests said. Praise God for our miracle child!”

To me, there is no greater story than the one you just read. Because of God’s faithfulness to watch over His Word to perform it, my granddaughter Alexis is a wonderful, healthy child, and she is anointed by God to do great things for His Kingdom.

I know beyond a shadow of a doubt that God desires for you to have a life-changing experience just like Randy, Nicole, and Alexis did. God is no respecter of persons, and what He did for one,

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He desires to do for all.

The key is to watch your words and make them match the words of God, to press in and refuse to back down, and to speak only God's Word no matter what happens or what others say.

CHAPTER SIX
FOLLOW GOD

Jesus lived by this Kingdom law of faith and was very careful about the use of words. In the same chapter of Luke where Jesus taught us that words are seeds, we can read the story of His encounter with Jairus (see Luke 8:37-56).

We all know the story. Jesus had cast the devil out of a man from the country of the Gadarenes. It caused such a stir that when Jesus returned to the city a huge, excited crowd was waiting for Him.

In the midst of dealing with the multitude, a man named Jairus came to Jesus begging Him to come to his house where his twelve year old daughter lay dying. Jesus set out toward Jairus' house, but He was mobbed and slowed down by the crowd.

Jesus slowly worked His way toward the street, intent on following Jairus back to his house, but Jesus only made it a few steps before He was stopped cold in His tracks.

A woman with an issue of blood had crawled through the crowd and touched the hem of Jesus' garment. He immediately recognized that virtue had gone out of Him, and He stopped to find out

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who had been healed.

All the while the clock was ticking. Jairus was standing by watching as time was running out for his daughter. Before Jesus could return to His journey, a servant burst through the crowd and breathlessly told Jairus, “Your daughter is dead; trouble not the Master.”

Jesus immediately turned toward Jairus. He looked him straight in the eye and said, “Fear not: believe only, and she shall be made whole.”

In other words, “Be still Jairus. You said if I would come to your house and touch your daughter, she would be made well. Don’t mess it up now and say what you see or hear. Say what you desire, and your daughter will live again.”

It is not recorded that Jairus ever said his daughter was dead. He simply continued on his journey with Jesus. When Jesus entered Jairus’ house, He put the mourners out, took the girl by the hand and raised her from the dead.

Jairus got what he desired instead of what he saw and heard because Jesus helped him protect his miracle by helping him watch his words.

We learn an important lesson here. No matter how bad it looks, don’t say what you see. Even when everyone else around you is saying what they see, you don’t have to.

Let’s look at Mark 11:23 again: “For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be removed, and be cast into the sea;

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and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he says shall come to pass: he shall have whatsoever he says.”

We could say it this way: “Stop talking about your mountain. Stop talking about how big it is. Stop talking about how it got there, and start talking about what you want to see in its place instead. You want it out of the way? Tell the mountain to go jump in the lake!”

Jesus did not tell the disciples to define the mountain; He told them to define what they desired. God clearly wants us to say what we desire instead of what we see. What do we desire? We desire what God’s Word says about us and our situation.

God never told anyone to deny what they saw or what the devil did, but He did tell them to believe and speak His promise instead. In Genesis 1:3, God said what He desired, “Let there be light: and there was light” (Genesis 1:3).

God saw the problem, but He did not say what He saw. At this point, God was no different than man, though of course He was absolutely God. He was in the valley of decision. He could accept what the adversary had done, or He could change it.

Whenever we see the result of the enemy’s activity in our lives we enter the valley of decision. Victory is on one hill, defeat is on the other. Faith is on the victory side, fear and

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unbelief are on the other side. You can decide to say what you see, or you can say what God's Word says, which is what you want to see.

God stood in this valley, and He made His decision. When God determined that what He saw was not what He desired, then He said, "Let there be light: and there was light."

At the moment God said, "Let there be light", immediately light was. Only after light was, did God see light. You must understand this. Light was as soon as God said it, but God didn't see it until after He said it and it was.

The Creation Experience

I want to take you on a journey for a moment to experience what it must have been like on the day of Genesis 1:3. Let's imagine we're standing with God for a moment while He contemplates the destruction, void, and darkness on earth.

We stand beside Him, and we see it, too. He sees devastation and the work of the adversary against His creation. We see the devastation, and then we look at God. He says nothing about the darkness. He simply pauses and quietly makes a decision.

We stand perfectly still, afraid to move. The silence in the darkness is deafening. We can hear ourselves breathing. We can hear the Spirit of God quietly moving upon the face of the deep,

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pondering the destruction below. We hear a distant laugh rise above the waters, the voice of the enemy in mock victory.

Suddenly, everything stops, and we listen intently during a silent “three, two, one.” We hear God take a deep breath, and then it happens. The Creator booms forth His decision, “Let there be light!”

The sound of His voice resonates like the strain of a magnificent orchestra, engulfing everything in its path. Over and over and over the words echo across the decimated earth. We can almost see the intensity of the sound waves rolling over the waters, reverberating with the sound of God’s voice. After a time, ever so slowly, the intensity dies away until there is silence again.

For a moment nothing seems to have changed. It still looks dark. We know light is, because God said it, but we can’t see light yet. We look at God and notice He is not moved, so we decide we won’t be moved either.

Without warning, we see a flash. In a split-second light comes crashing through the horizon. It blasts over the earth like a nuclear explosion. Faster and brighter than anything we have ever witnessed, light blazes into being.

We shield our eyes for a moment, feeling the rush of wind as the light passes by. We tremble as we look up to see it. More beautiful than words can describe, light is.

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The sun hasn't been formed yet. That doesn't happen until Genesis 1:16, but still, light is. We look back at God, and He doesn't seem surprised. He looks at light with satisfaction, knowing light is good, and for the time being, He says no more.

We learned a valuable lesson during our imagined visit. Light was as soon as God said it, even though for a moment we could not see it. God said ... light was ... and then God saw the light.

God, our Father, stood in the valley of decision and decided to conquer the destruction He saw before Him. When we stand in our valley, we can make this same quality decision, knowing that God Himself will back us up when we act like Him.

God said, "Let there be." So, according to God's Word we can confidently say, "Let there be." We are made in His image, after His likeness for a purpose - to walk as He walks and live as He lives, just as children are supposed to do.

It should not be an uncommon thing for us to act like God. With the power of His Spirit abiding in us and the revelation of His Word showing us the way, acting like God did in the Bible should be second nature to us.

Remember, God commanded us to follow (imitate) Him as dear children in Ephesians 5:1. We are created in the image of God, and we lack nothing that we need. We can see a problem, say

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what God says about it, and then see what we desire as it is manifested in the physical realm.

We have been made like the Father at the new birth. We have the ability to imitate what God did and said in the beginning. We can say (as He said), knowing it will be (as light was), and then we will see (as God saw).

Faith works where we cannot see. Faith is that which is at work from the time we say something until the time we see it. We must believe that when we say ... it is! It is, though we do not yet see.

Agree With God

Let me say it one more time. The promises of God will not come to pass until you agree with God's Word and say them.

Remember, your salvation came that way: "If you shall confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and shall believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved. For with the heart man believes unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." (Romans 10:9-10)

You prayed and asked for forgiveness, and then you said, "Jesus is my Lord." After this, you announced to everyone around you that you got saved. And so, you were saved, and you are saved right now.

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But, you will not see your salvation completed until you reach Heaven. Your salvation is just as real today as it will be when you experience it in Heaven. It exists, even though you cannot see it yet.

Do you have salvation now? Sure you do. Your salvation is real, but you will not see it in full until the day you cross into eternity with Christ. According to Romans 10:9-10, your salvation exists because you said something. Aren't you glad you didn't wait to say until you saw? If you did, you would never see!

This principle is so important for a successful walk with Christ. We cannot have what God wants us to have unless we are first willing to do what He asks us to do.

Creation was dependent upon spoken words. Our salvation is dependent upon spoken words. Likewise, all of God's promises are released and manifested because of spoken words of faith.

No matter what the problem is, remember this law of faith. You see a problem, but like God, you don't say what you see. Instead, you say what you desire to see, the promise revealed by the Holy Ghost. For a moment you do not see what you desire, but in time, you do see, and you have what you desire.

This is how God dealt with His problem in Genesis 1:2. This is how God instructed Abraham to deal with His lack in Genesis 17:1-8. This is

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how God instructed Jeremiah to treat his call in Jeremiah 1:4-7.

This is how Jesus told Jairus to receive a miracle in Luke 8:37-56. It is how Jesus instructed the disciples to move a mountain in Mark 11:23. It's how Jesus dealt with the devil in Luke 4:1-13 and how He fulfilled scripture in Luke 4:17-21. And this is how we are commanded to live, according to Ephesians 5:1.

God is a faith God, moved not by your need, but by your words of faith. I encourage you to meditate on what you have learned in this book. Pray and ask God to give you a revelation of how you are to act and speak as one made in His image.

Always remember, when you see something that you do not want, be like God and don't say what you see. Say what you desire, and what God's Word says about you. Then in time, if you do not give up, you will see what you say in faith. This is the Kingdom law of faith, living in God's image, after His likeness, and experiencing His blessing for life.